

know the full story, these unspeakable acts of brutality strike at the very heart of our society. Our heartfelt prayers and sympathy go out to all who have been directly touched by this tragedy and their families.

Prayer can now be the source of unification and peace for a Nation that is beginning the healing process. The rotunda in our Nation's Capitol is a symbol of unification. House Members, Senators and the American people have historically gathered there for solemn occasions. It is, therefore, fitting that the people's representatives from both bodies gather together there today. No matter what the troubles in the world, you can have peace with God and you can achieve it with prayer.

My fellow colleagues, please join me and the millions across the country and the world as we remember those who died in a senseless and cowardly act of terrorism. May their memory serve as a reminder that the American spirit lives on and cannot be extinguished.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I, of course, concur in the Chairman's characterization of the resolution.

It is appropriate that we authorize the use of the rotunda of the Capitol, the center and heart of this Nation's Capitol, to remember those who have paid the final price for living in freedom and defending freedom.

Our democracy, of course, will not crumble in the face of this disaster. Our democracy will endure this test and emerge stronger and more dedicated to freedom and justice throughout the world.

We do this to honor and remember those of our fellow citizens, those who live among us who perished yesterday, and those whose lives have been forever changed by grievous acts of cowardice.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 223

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).* That the rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used at any time on September 12, 2001, for a prayer vigil in memory of those who lost their lives in the events of September 11, 2001. Physical preparations for the vigil shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the sub-

ject of H. Con. Res. 223, the concurrent resolution just agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

#### EXPRESSING SENSE OF SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST UNITED STATES

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a joint resolution (H. J. Res. 61), expressing the sense of the Senate and House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001, and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration pursuant to the following order:

Debate on the joint resolution shall be limited to 3 hours equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader;

After opening speeches, the majority leader and the minority leader each may yield the remainder of his time to the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations, respectively, who may control that time;

The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion; and

Following passage of the joint resolution and upon receipt of a message that the Senate has passed an identical joint resolution, the House shall be considered to have passed the Senate joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the joint resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H.J. RES. 61

Whereas on September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked and destroyed four civilian aircraft, crashing two of them into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, and a third into the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C.;

Whereas thousands of innocent Americans were killed and injured as a result of these attacks, including the passengers and crew of the four aircraft, workers in the World Trade Center and in the Pentagon, rescue workers, and bystanders;

Whereas these attacks destroyed both towers of the World Trade Center, as well as adjacent buildings, and seriously damaged the Pentagon; and

Whereas these attacks were by far the deadliest terrorist attacks ever launched against the United States, and, by targeting symbols of American strength and success, clearly were intended to intimidate our Nation and weaken its resolve: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That Congress—

(1) condemns in the strongest possible terms the terrorists who planned and carried out the September 11, 2001, attacks against the United States, as well as their sponsors;

(2) extends its deepest condolences to the victims of these heinous and cowardly attacks, as well as to their families, friends, and loved ones;

(3) is certain that the people of the United States will stand united as our Nation begins the process of recovering and rebuilding in the aftermath of these tragic acts;

(4) commends the heroic actions of the rescue workers, volunteers, and State and local officials who responded to these tragic events with courage, determination, and skill;

(5) declares that these premeditated attacks struck not only at the people of America, but also at the symbols and structures of our economic and military strength, and that the United States is entitled to respond under international law;

(6) thanks those foreign leaders and individuals who have expressed solidarity with the United States in the aftermath of the attacks, and asks them to continue to stand with the United States in the war against international terrorism;

(7) commits to support increased resources in the war to eradicate terrorism;

(8) supports the determination of the President, in close consultation with Congress, to bring to justice and punish the perpetrators of these attacks as well as their sponsors; and

(9) declares that September 12, 2001, shall be a National Day of Unity and Mourning, and that when Congress adjourns today, it stands adjourned out of respect to the victims of the terrorist attacks.

□ 1500

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) each will control 90 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY).

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is a time when we should choose our words carefully and deliver them deliberately.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is a resolution that shows our utter contempt and our total resolve after the acts of yesterday. America was attacked yesterday, Mr. Speaker, an evil, cowardly act of war against the American people and against the lovers of freedom across this globe.

It is, Mr. Speaker, because of the goodness of the American people that they find it so impossible to understand such acts of barbarism. It is, Mr. Speaker, because of our commitment to peace and freedom and love that we do not understand how people can do these things.

But, Mr. Speaker, there are things the American people do understand. We understand the heartbreak of the families of those victims of this atrocity who lost their lives. We as a Nation come together with empathy. Our hearts cry out for the loss, the injustice, the mindlessness of it, the cruelty and the waste; and we come together as a Nation to console one another.

Mr. Speaker, we Americans understand the heroism that is demonstrated by our citizens, the quiet heroism of those ordinary working men and women in America who went to work